

# **Washington State Patrol**

## **Media Release**

**Chief John R. Batiste**

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**\*\*\*For Immediate Release\*\*\***

**Date: August 30, 2006**  
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### **WSP Partnering in Major Labor Day Emphasis**

The Washington State Patrol will be part of a major patrol emphasis September 1-4, 2006. Alaska State Troopers, Royal Canadian Mounted Police in British Columbia, Oregon State Police and the California Highway Patrol will join with us in this “all hands” effort focusing primarily on the Interstate highway system. This emphasis is titled, “Mountain Pacific Highway Safety and Criminal Apprehension Initiative.”

Last year, the WSP investigated four fatality collisions across Washington State. Troopers removed 277 motorists statewide for driving under the influence. In Spokane, WSP troopers arrested 34 drivers for DUI. Troopers also investigated 17 collisions throughout the seven counties that are covered by District 4.

“Last year we saw a rise in injury and fatality collisions over Labor Day weekend,” said Chief John R. Batiste. “These numbers are very concerning, which is why we will have all available troopers working this weekend to enforce the laws and do what we can to get dangerous drivers off our roads and save lives.”

Troopers will be using all available resources to prevent these tragedies from occurring on our roadways. Drivers are reminded that the WSP has zero tolerance for drivers found to be operating vehicles under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Troopers will also be aggressively enforcing speed limits and seat belt laws in an effort to prevent collisions and injuries resulting from collisions.

Motorists are encouraged to plan ahead and designate a driver if they plan on being intoxicated. Drivers should prepare to see increased traffic throughout the weekend.

**MEDIA RIDE ALONGS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

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